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# The Center for Irish Music

November 2007

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## Class Notes:

Dear Center for Irish Music Members – There is a lot to tell you about in this newsletter! We have a couple of special events this month, announcements about winter, as well as notes for our end-of-semester recital. Keep up the practicing! I hate to be the one to burst your bubble, but, there's no magic trick here! Practice, practice, practice! It's the only way you will continue to progress and it's a wonderful, relaxing thing too.

Thank you to all the parents and care-givers who are transporting students to and from lessons. And for those of you old enough to transport yourselves – thank you too! I hope you are finding the location and parking convenient. As winter approaches, we may have more severe weather. Please remember to call my cell on "interesting" weather days to see what we are doing about lessons. The number is 612-669-3013. I will leave a message for everyone there as to whether or not we'll be meeting those nights and if we'll reschedule. Thank you, Kate Dowling

## NOTES:

- Private lessons will meet November 6. Anyone in GROUP LESSONS on Nov 6 – MEET AT THE SESSION!
- **NO CLASSES ON NOV 8.** The Wellstone Center is closed that day. Missed classes will be taught in December
- **NO CLASSES THE WEEK OF THANKSGIVING (November 20 & 22)**

Come help us raise some money for the Center's new

## **BERNADETTE GALABA SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

### **Memorial Benefit Ceili – November 11**

featuring Máirtín de Cógáin & Center for Irish Music Students and Instructors

*You are invited to participate in a very special event on November 11 that will honor Bernadette Galaba's memory. Bernadette was a beloved member of our community – perhaps you knew her through her business Celtic Embroidery. Her beautiful embroidery work can be found at every Irish event in the Cities. She was an energetic, positive and kind woman. Her sudden death was devastating to all who knew and loved her. To celebrate her memory, some friends have created an event to bring the community together for a wonderful afternoon of Irish music, dance, song, and storytelling. The kind of event that Bernadette, herself, would have attended. At the same time, they wish to raise a sum of money to benefit the new **Bernadette Galaba Memorial Scholarship at the Center for Irish Music**. Bernadette wholeheartedly championed the center and its mission to pass Irish traditional music to the next generations.*

*The event's celebrity co-host/performer/ceili caller/storyteller is the enormously popular Máirtín de Cógáin of the Fuchsia Band. He will be joined by staff and students from the Center for Irish Music and by the Giggin' Síles, whose harmonious sound is that of the angels singing. There will also be a brief "fashion show" of Bernadette's embroidered creations. For additional information, e-mail [BernadetteTribute@yahoo.com](mailto:BernadetteTribute@yahoo.com)*



*Bernadette Galaba*

The Center for Irish Music is honored to receive the proceeds from this memorial ceili dance in Bernadette's memory. John, Bernadette's husband, shared with us that when Bernadette was a child, she always wanted to take music lessons but there weren't the resources, and she never had that opportunity. In her name, her family and friends would like to help children who need assistance. Please come help us raise funds for her memorial scholarship. All proceeds from this event go to the Bernadette Galaba Memorial Scholarship Fund at the Center for Irish Music.

**ALL** current, past, and future students and instructors are encouraged to attend and participate in this important event. Details will be coming your way as to how you will be participating. In the meantime, wipe everything else off your calendar and we will see you and your family there!

**The Center for Irish Music**  
PO Box 7034, St Paul, MN 55107  
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Web: [www.centerforirishmusic.org](http://www.centerforirishmusic.org) email: [irish.music@comcast.net](mailto:irish.music@comcast.net)

Bernadette Memorial Ceili  
Music, Dance and Storytelling  
Sunday, November 11 from 2-5pm  
\$10 per person or \$25 per family  
At the Klub Haus, 1079 Rice Street, St. Paul  
Cash bar available

### Family Session, Tuesday, November 6 with Special Guest Máirtín de Cógáin.



It is our good luck to have Fuschia Band star Máirtín de Cógáin in town for a week. To take advantage of his presence, we've coerced him to come to The Center for Irish Music's Family Session on Tuesday, November 6 from 6:30-8pm.

If you've never seen the Fuschia Band or met Máirtín, you are in for a treat. He is a story-teller, dancer, singer and bodhran player from Cork. Bring your family out for a fun night of music and more. Read more about Máirtín at [www.thefuschiaband.com](http://www.thefuschiaband.com).

### Tin Whistle & Flute Workshop and House Concert with Grey Larsen, Friday November 9

What a week this second week of November is going to be! Máirtín de Cógáin will be at our Tuesday session AND the Sunday ceili benefit – AND there's also a fantastic, intimate workshop and house concert with tin whistle, flute player and author Grey Larsen. Grey is perhaps best known for his book *The Essential Guide to Irish Flute and Tin Whistle*.

This workshop is for intermediate and advanced players of both Irish flute and tin whistle. Irish (wooden) flute and modern "Boehm system" flute players are both welcome. Whistle players need to bring a D whistle, and flutists can play tin whistle in the workshop if they prefer. You should be able to play at least a handful of Irish traditional tunes at a moderate speed. We will delve deeply into traditional Irish phrasing and ornamentation, as well as breathing strategies that enhance the phrasing and clarity of the music. No music reading is necessary, though handouts may be available. Emphasis will be on technique over repertoire.



We will work with materials and concepts that Grey presents in his book, "The Essential Guide to Irish Flute and Tin Whistle" (free excerpts are available at <http://www.greylarsen.com/store/books.php>). Music reading ability is not required.

Anyone who plays a tin whistle or flute in the Twin Cities should come out for this unique event. VERY limited seating for the workshop and concert as this is a house concert. You must call or email in advance to reserve your space. Both tin whistles and flutes will be welcome in this class. Please bring a recording device! Grey is performing with his partner, singer and guitarist Cindy Kallet.

Friday, November 9, 2007  
Workshop - 6-7pm, \$20  
Concert - 7:30pm, \$10  
Concert & Workshop - \$25

Location: 2308 Fremont Ave South, Minneapolis, MN call 612-374-4364 or e-mail [cindyandgrey@bobandjulie.net](mailto:cindyandgrey@bobandjulie.net) More information on Grey Larsen is available on his website at: [www.greylarsen.com](http://www.greylarsen.com)

### Green Tie Event – Failte Minnesota November 17

*Failte (welcome) Minnesota invite you to a night of fine dining and entertainment to raise funds to build an Irish Community Center for our local Irish heritage. The November 17 event begins at 6:00 p.m. and features live Irish music from The Center for Irish Music, Legacy, The Giggin Siles, a traditional Irish Ceili called by Mike Whelan, as well as silent and live auctions. Location: University Club Downtown Clubhouse, 340 Cedar Avenue, St. Paul. Tickets are \$100.00 per person and are available by contacting Dan Sexton at 651-455-1118 or purchasing them through our website.*

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The driving force behind the Irish Community Center efforts is to provide an inclusive location where organizations meet, music groups and schools practice, and classes are held. The Irish Community Center will also provide meeting space and support the synergy of all the Irish organizations working together. The Irish Community Center will be a place where visitors learn about Irish music, arts, language, customs, culture, and the important role the Irish have played and continue to play in the history and development of Minnesota and the region. The Irish Community Center will offer opportunities for the larger community to hear Irish speakers, musicians and authors, see dance and theatre performances, and relax in the ambiance of a "clubhouse" atmosphere.

Essentially, the Irish Community Center seeks to preserve and celebrate a fiercely proud Irish heritage, and to honor the rich contributions the Irish have made to America. We envision a center that brings together, under one roof, the cultural and social Irish organizations, in addition to providing the greater Twin Cities community the opportunity to enjoy Irish hospitality and Irish traditions. With your support, beginning with the Annual Green Tie event we can make the dream of an Irish Community Center a reality. See [www.failteminnesota.org](http://www.failteminnesota.org) for more information.

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**The Center for Irish Music youth ensemble will be performing during the dinner hour.**

### Winter Workshop and Concert with Denis Liddy

The mission of the Center for Irish Music is to hand down traditional Irish music and we do this in many ways - beyond our weekly instruction and monthly sessions. We have brought you a number of special workshops in the past, and, of course at the Young Irish Musicians Weekend. Thanks to a grant from the Irish Fair of MN (see our Fall Newsletter) we are starting semi-annual weekend workshops featuring fantastic instructors, well known and rare. We are excited to announce that we are working on details to bring over Denis Liddy from Ennis in County Clare for a weekend of workshops and a concert the weekend of February 16, 2008. You may not recognize his name, but Denis is a phenomenal teacher and fiddle player. He has been teaching the *Barefield Ceili Band* for many years and they have frequently won at the *Fleadh Ceol*. The weekend will consist of fiddle-specific workshops, all-instrument repertoire and style workshops and a concert. Please mark your calendar for this very special event. More details as they become available.

### All-School Recital Sunday, December 2 from 4-6pm @ The Wellstone Center



The Center for Irish Music is inviting all current students to participate in our Fall All-School Recital on Sunday December 2 from 4-6pm. The Recital will take place in the performance hall at the Paul & Sheila Wellstone Center. Participation is **voluntary** – we will not force anyone to play who doesn't want to! We hope that our recitals will be a happy place to show off your progress and impress your friends and relatives with your fantastic rhythm, dexterity and general musical prowess! Please talk with your instructor(s) about what piece(s) you will play and work on this specifically for performance.

Students taking private lessons are welcome to play a solo piece of one to three tunes in a row, or some other combination that is 3-5 minutes in length. Students in ensembles who are NOT taking private lessons are invited to participate with their ensemble. If time is available (we won't know this until a week or two before the recital) we may be able to have students who are not in private lessons perform solo pieces at the recital. Please contact Brian Miller if you fall in to this category and want to participate as a soloist. If there are any duets or trios out there that would like to perform, also, please contact Brian Miller so that he can see if we can fit you in. Brian may be reached at 651-245-3719 or via email at [dadgadguy@gmail.com](mailto:dadgadguy@gmail.com).

Our guidelines for the recital: 1. Practice, Practice, Practice. 2. No skirts shorter than your knees. 3. No gum. That's it!

### Upcoming Center for Irish Music Performances

- November 2, 7pm St. Martin's Way Benefit at Rosemount Community Center featuring Roseann Halloran
- November 11, 2-5pm Bernadette Memorial Ceili at the Klub Haus, St Paul

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- November 17, 7pm Failte MN Green Tie Event, Campus Club St. Paul
- December 2, 4-6pm Recital at the Wellstone Center, St. Paul

## The Trunk Project – Irish History and Immigration

Twin City musicians and dancers Danielle Enblom and Anna Lethert are working on an Irish heritage project and they'd like your participation. Read more here!

*Hi Everyone,*

*We are working on an Irish Music and Dance Association funded project aimed to educate people about Irish history and immigration. The project will revolve around an immigrant's trunk filled with artifacts and accounts of Irish heritage. The Swedish Institute of Minnesota has a similar project going that has been very successful in teaching people, mostly in schools and nursing homes, about Swedish cultural history in the United States. Our goal is to put together a presentation primarily for, but not limited to, school-age children. In addition to the trunk and artifacts, we will provide interactive demonstrations and activities in traditional music, dance, language and other important aspects of culture.*

*Having grown up in the Irish community in the Twin Cities, we've experienced how rich and vibrant the culture is here. So, it seems only natural for local history to be a large part of this project. We have done general research on Irish immigration and we've found some artifacts, and now we are seeking help from you! **If anyone has personal or family stories from any time in history, or artifacts to contribute we would greatly appreciate it and be honored to include these parts of your heritage in our project.** Please pass this on to anyone else who might be willing to contribute. Contact us at [TheTrunkProject@gmail.com](mailto:TheTrunkProject@gmail.com) Thank you very much! - Anna Lethert and Danielle Enblom*

## Winter Semester Starts Week of January 7, 2008 through Week of March 10, 2008.

Our Fall Semester ends the week of December 10. We will be announcing our Winter Course Offerings the second week of November. Please check the website for information. Private lessons may start at any time. Thanks!